Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 /042 W

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R 082129Z AUG 75 FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7209 INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL AMCONSUL QUEBEC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SCUL, CA

SUBJ: CIVAIR: PILOTS STRIKE THREATENED OVER

BILINGUALISM IN ATC OPERATIONS

REF: OTTAWA A-347, MAY 28, 1975

1. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE CANADIAN AIRLINE PILOTS
ASSOCIATION (CALPA) MEETING AT VANCOUVER -- CITING SAFETY
CONSIDERATIONS -- HAVE DEMANDED GOC ABANDON EXPERIMENTAL
PROGRAMS PERMITTING USE OF FRENCH IN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL
OPERATIONS. THREATENED ONE-DAY GENERAL STRIKE AGAINST
SCHEDULED AND OTHER CARRIERS ON OCTOBER 17 TO BACK UP
DEMAND IF NECESSARY. CALPA PRESIDENT MALEY QUOTED AS ALSO
STATING IF AT ANY TIME RECOMMENDATIONS OF BILCOM REPORT
(SEE REFAIR) ARE IMPLEMENTED, ALL FLIGHT OPERATIONS IN
CANADA WILL CEASE. ALSO ASSERTED ACTION ENJOYED SUPPORT OF
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION AIRLINE PILOTS ASSOCIATIONS.
SUPPORT FOR CALPA POSITION ALSO VOICED BY PRESIDENT,
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATION WHICH HAS NO
IMMEDIATE PLANS TO JOIN ANY WALKOUT.

2. COMMENT: INDUSTRY SOURCE ADVISED TCO CALPA THREATS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE VERY SERIOUS AND SUPPORTED BY MOST AVIATION INTERESTS.

CALPA REPRESENTS PILOTS IN ALL MAJOR CANADIAN AIRLINES EXCEPT QUEBECAIR. BILINGUALISM IN ATC OPERATIONS HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF SEVERAL RECENT MEETINGS AT WHICH CALPA CARRIERS AND GENERAL AVIATION INTERESTS ATTEMPTED DISSUADE MOT FROM CONTINUING ITS POLICY BUT TO NO AVAIL. SOURCE INDICATED BILINGUALISM MAY BE IN FACT BECOMING MONOLINGUALISM IN PARTS OF QUEBEC. CITED RECENT SITUATION IN WHICH AIR CANADA CAPTAIN WHO SPOKE ONLY ENGLISH WAS REFUSED INFORMATION BY CONTROLLER AT QUEBEC CITY WHO WOULD ONLY COMMUNICATE DATA IN FRENCH. FORTUNATELY, LANDING WAS WITHOUT INCIDENT. HOWEVER, CARRIER INDUSTRY VERY WORRIED ABOUT IMPLICATIONS OF GOC POLICY AND EXPECTS PROVIDE SUITABLE SUPPORT FOR CALPA INITIATIVE. PORTER

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Message Attributes

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